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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : D. Romeo
Group Art Unit : 1647
Applicant : Hermann Oppermann, et al.
Application No. : 09/375,333
Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned
Filed : August 16, 1999
For : MODIFIED TGF- β SUPERFAMILY PROTEINS

New York, New York
December 3, 2001

Hon. Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This is in reply to the July 2, 2001 Office Action in the above-identified application. Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(4) to extend the time for replying to the Office Action for a period of four months up to and including December 3, 2001 (December 2, 2001 being a Sunday).

Prior to examining this application, kindly amend the application as follows: